

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

- Please amend paragraph 032 on page 8 as follows:

[032] In one aspect, the ML decoder 113 of the communications system according to the present invention generates correlation values for the transformed information bits, calculates at ~~least~~ least one maximum value from the generated correlation values, and regenerates the negotiated size from the at least one maximum value.

- Please amend paragraph 045 on page 15 as follows:

[045] Fig. 4 is an exemplary decoder in a communications system according to still another preferred embodiment of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 4, a decoder is provided in a wideband code division multiple access (WCDMA) system having an encoder encoding information bits for transmission between a base station and a mobile unit. The decoder according to this particular embodiment of the present invention primarily comprises a transport format combination index (TFCI) size negotiated for the encoded information bits for transmission between the base station and the mobile unit, a depermutter 401 depermuting the transmitted information bits, a fast Hadamard transformer 402 transforming the depermuted information bits with a reduced order determined according to the negotiated TFCI size, and a maximum likelihood (ML) decoder 403 decoding the transmitted information bits. In one aspect, the ML decoder 403 further comprises a maximum value correlator 404, in conjunction with the additional depermutter 405, that generates correlation values for the

transformed information bits, calculates at ~~least~~ least one maximum value from the generated correlation values, and regenerates the TFCI negotiated size from the at least one maximum value.